

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sealing member for sealing a toner discharge opening of a toner accommodating container detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus,  
5 said sealing member comprising:

a locking portion for being locked with a portion to be locked provided in said image forming apparatus, said locking portion being adapted to displace with a relative closing movement relative to  
10 said portion to be locked,

wherein said toner discharging opening is brought into an open state from a closed state by relative to movement of said sealing member relative to said toner accommodating container with said  
15 locking portion being in engagement with said portion to be locked; and

a releasing force receiving portion for receiving from said image forming apparatus a releasing force for releasing engagement between said  
20 locking portion and said portion to be locked by displacing said locking portion.

2. A sealing member according to Claim 1,  
further comprising a locking force receiving portion  
25 for receiving from said image forming apparatus a locking force for locking said locking portion with said portion to be locked by displacing said locking

portion, wherein when said locking force is released, said locking portion restores to its original position.

5       3. A sealing member according to Claim 2, wherein said sealing member has a cylindrical portion at its end, said cylindrical portion has a locking projection provided with said locking portion and said locking force receiving portion, and a releasing projection provided with said releasing force receiving portion.

10      15     4. A sealing member according to Claim 3, wherein a region of said cylindrical portion in which said locking projection and said releasing projection are provided is elastically deformable by said locking force and said releasing force.

20      25     5. A sealing member according to Claim 4, wherein said cylindrical portion has a slit at each of sides of said region with respect to a circumferential direction of said cylindrical portion, said slit being extended to a free end of said cylindrical portion.

25      6. A sealing member according to Claim 5, wherein said locking projection is disposed closer to a free end of said cylindrical portion than said

releasing projection.

7. A sealing member according to Claim 6,  
wherein when said releasing projection does not  
5 receive said releasing force, said releasing  
projection is more outward than said locking  
projection.

8. A sealing member according to Claim 7,  
10 wherein a width of said locking projection measured in  
a circumstantial direction of said cylindrical portion  
is larger than a width of said releasing projection  
measured in the circumferential direction.

15 9. A sealing member according to Claim 7,  
wherein said locking projection and said releasing  
projection are provided at an outer surface of said  
cylindrical portion.

20 10. A sealing member according to Claim 9,  
wherein said locking projection and said releasing  
projection are tapered at its outer surface.

25 11. A sealing member according to Claim 1 or 9,  
further comprising an engaging portion engageable with  
a portion to be engaged of said toner accommodating  
container, wherein said engaging portion of said

sealing member is slid able relative to said portion to be engaged of said toner accommodating container while maintaining engagement with said portion to be engaged between an opening position where said toner discharge  
5 opening is open and a closing position where said toner discharge opening is closed.

12. A sealing member according to Claim 11,  
wherein after said toner discharge opening is brought  
10 into the closed state to the open state, said locking  
portion is relatively moved away from said portion to be locked with said releasing force receiving portion receiving a releasing force.

15 13. A sealing member according to Claim 12,  
further comprising a driving force receiving portion  
for receiving from said image forming apparatus a  
driving force for feeding toner in said toner  
accommodating container toward said toner discharge  
20 opening with said toner discharge opening being in the  
open state, wherein said driving force is transmitted  
from said engaging portion to said portion to be  
engaged.

25 14. A sealing member according to any one of  
Claims 11-13, further comprising a plugging force  
receiving portion for receiving a plugging force from

said image forming apparatus for bring said toner discharge opening into the closed state from the opening state by a relative movement of said sealing member relative to said toner accommodating container.

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15. A sealing member according to Claim 3, further comprising a driving force receiving portion for receiving from said image forming apparatus a driving force for feeding toner in said toner accommodating container toward said toner discharge opening with said toner discharge opening being in the open state, said driving force receiving portion being provided in said locking projection.

15       16. A sealing member according to Claim 15, further comprising a driving force transmitting portion for transmitting said driving force substantially to said toner accommodating container to rotate said toner accommodating container.

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17. A sealing member according to Claim 9 or 15, wherein one or more pairs of such a locking projection and such a releasing projection are provided.

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18. A sealing member according to Claim 1, wherein said locking portion is locked with said portion to be locked in a snap fitting manner.

19. A sealing member according to Claim 1 or 9,  
wherein said toner accommodating container is mounted  
to said image forming apparatus with said free end of  
5 said sealing member at a leading side.

20. A toner accommodating container detachably  
mountable to an image forming apparatus, said toner  
accommodating container comprising:

10 a main body for accommodating toner;  
a locking portion for being locked with a  
portion to be locked provided in said image forming  
apparatus, said locking portion being adapted to  
displace with a relative closing movement relative to  
15 said portion to be locked; and

20 a releasing force receiving portion for  
receiving from said image forming apparatus a  
releasing force for releasing engagement between said  
locking portion and said portion to be locked by  
displacing said locking portion.

21. A container according to Claim 20, further  
comprising a locking force receiving portion for  
receiving from said image forming apparatus a locking  
25 force for locking said locking portion with said  
portion to be locked by displacing said locking  
portion, wherein when said locking force is released,

said locking portion restores to its original position.

22. A container according to Claim 21, further comprising a cylindrical portion having a locking projection provided with said locking portion and said locking force receiving portion and a releasing projection provided with said releasing force receiving portion.

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23. A container according to Claim 22, wherein a region of said cylindrical portion in which said locking projection and said releasing projection are provided is elastically deformable by said locking force and said releasing force.

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24. A container according to Claim 23, wherein said cylindrical portion has a slit at each of sides of said region with respect to a circumferential direction of said cylindrical portion, said slit being extended to a free end of said cylindrical portion.

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25. A container according to Claim 24, wherein said locking projection is disposed closer to a free end of said cylindrical portion than said releasing projection.

26. A container according to Claim 24, wherein when said releasing projection does not receive said releasing force, said releasing projection is more outward than said locking projection.

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27. A container according to Claim 26, wherein a width of said locking projection measured in a circumstantial direction of said cylindrical portion is larger than a width of said releasing projection  
10 measured in the circumferential direction.

28. A container according to Claim 27, wherein said locking projection and said releasing projection are provided at an outer surface of said cylindrical portion.  
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29. A container according to Claim 28, wherein said locking projection and said releasing projection are tapered at its outer surface.  
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30. A container according to Claim 20 or 28, further comprising a sealing member, provided with said locking portion and said releasing force receiving portion, for sealing a toner discharge  
25 opening for permitting discharge of the toner in said main body.

31. A container according to Claim 30, wherein  
said toner discharge opening is brought into an open  
state from a closed state by relative movement of said  
sealing member relative to said main body with said  
5 locking portion being in engagement with said portion  
to be locked.

32. A container according to Claim 31, further  
comprising a portion to be engaged engageable with an  
10 engaging portion of said sealing member, wherein said  
engaging portion of said sealing member is slidable  
relative to said portion to be engaged of said toner  
accommodating container while maintaining engagement  
with said portion to be engaged between an opening  
15 position where said toner discharge opening is open  
and a closing position where said toner discharge  
opening is closed.

33. A container according to Claim 32, wherein  
20 after said toner discharge opening is brought into the  
closed state to the open state, said locking portion  
is relatively moved away from said portion to be  
locked with said releasing force receiving portion  
receiving a releasing force.

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34. A container according to Claim 33, further  
comprising a driving force receiving portion for

receiving from said image forming apparatus a driving force for feeding toner in said toner accommodating container toward said toner discharge opening with said toner discharge opening being in the open state,  
5 wherein said driving force is transmitted from said engaging portion to said portion to be engaged.

35. A container according to any of of Claims 32-  
34, wherein said locking projection has a driving  
10 force receiving portion for receiving from said image forming apparatus a driving force for feeding toner in said toner accommodating container toward said toner discharge opening with said toner discharge opening being in the open state, said driving force receiving portion being provided in said locking projection.  
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36. A container according to Claim 22, further comprising a driving force receiving portion for receiving from said image forming apparatus a driving force for feeding the toner in said main body toward said toner discharge opening, said driving force receiving portion being provided with said locking projection.  
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25 37. A container according to Claim 36, further comprising a driving force transmitting portion for transmitting said driving force substantially to said

toner accommodating container to rotate said toner accommodating container.

38. A container according to Claim 20 or 28,  
5 further comprising a driving force receiving member, provided with said locking portion and said releasing portion, for receiving a driving force from said image forming apparatus.

10 39. A container according to Claim 20, wherein said locking portion is locked with said image forming apparatus in a snap fitting manner.

15 40. A container according to Claim 30, wherein said toner accommodating container is mounted to said image forming apparatus with said free end of said sealing member at a leading side.

20 41. An image forming apparatus comprising mounting means for detachably mounting a toner accommodating container, said toner accommodating container including,  
25 a main body for accommodating toner and a locking portion for being locked with a portion to be locked of said mounting means, wherein said locking portion displaceable by said mounting means with a relative closing movement relative to said portion to

be locked; and

a releasing force receiving portion for  
receiving a releasing force for releasing engagement  
between said locking portion and said portion to be  
locked by displacing said locking portion; and

5 applying means for applying a releasing force  
to said releasing force receiving portion.

10 42. An apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein  
said toner accommodating container is provided with a  
locking force receiving portion for receiving a  
locking force for locking with said portion to be  
locked by displacement of said locking portion.

15 43. An apparatus according to Claim 42, further  
comprising a cylindrical portion having a locking  
projection provided with said locking portion and said  
locking force receiving portion and a releasing  
projection provided with said releasing force  
20 receiving portion.

25 44. An apparatus according to Claim 43, wherein a  
region of said cylindrical portion in which said  
locking projection and said releasing projection are  
provided is elastically deformable by said locking  
force and said releasing force.

45. An apparatus according to Claim 44, wherein  
said cylindrical portion has a slit at each of sides  
of said region with respect to a circumferential  
direction of said cylindrical portion, said slit being  
5 extended to a free end of said cylindrical portion.

46. An apparatus according to Claim 45, wherein  
said locking projection is disposed closer to a free  
end of said cylindrical portion than said releasing  
10 projection.

47. An apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein  
when said releasing projection does not receive said  
releasing force, said releasing projection is more  
15 outward than said locking projection.

48. An apparatus according to Claim 47, wherein a  
width of said locking projection measured in a  
circumstantial direction of said cylindrical portion  
20 is larger than a width of said releasing projection  
measured in the circumferential direction.

49. An apparatus according to Claim 47, wherein  
said locking projection and said releasing projection  
25 are provided at an outer surface of said cylindrical  
portion.

50. An apparatus according to Claim 49, wherein  
said locking projection and said releasing projection  
are tapered at its outer surface.

5 51. An apparatus according to Claim 41 or 49,  
further comprising a sealing member, provided with  
said locking portion and said releasing force  
receiving portion, for sealing a toner discharge  
opening for permitting discharge of the toner in said  
10 main body.

15 52. An apparatus according to Claim 51, wherein  
said sealing member has a cylindrical portion provided  
at its free end with said locking portion and said  
releasing force receiving portion.

20 53. An apparatus according to Claim 52, wherein  
said toner discharge opening is brought into an open  
state from a closed state by relative movement of said  
sealing member relative to said main body with said  
locking portion being in engagement with said portion  
to be locked.

25 54. An apparatus according to Claim 53, further  
comprising an engaging portion engageable with a  
portion to be engaged of said toner accommodating  
container, wherein said engaging portion of said

sealing member is slid able relative to said portion to  
be engaged of said toner accommodating container while  
maintaining engagement with said portion to be engaged  
between an opening position where said toner discharge  
5 opening is open and a closing position where said  
toner discharge opening is closed.

55. An apparatus according to Claim 54, wherein  
after said toner discharge opening is brought into the  
10 closed state to the open state, said locking portion  
is relatively moved away from said portion to be  
locked with said releasing force receiving portion  
receiving a releasing force.

15 56. An apparatus according to Claim 53, wherein  
said mounting means includes a cylindrical member  
having a plurality of locking holes provided with said  
portions to be locked with said such engaging  
projections, respectively, and one or more engaging  
20 ribs engageable with said driving force receiving  
portion between said locking holes, wherein number of  
said locking projections is larger than number of said  
engaging ribs.

25 57. An apparatus according to Claim 56, wherein  
applying means includes a release cylindrical member  
which is slid able enclosing said cylindrical portion

to push said releasing projection, thus displacing  
said locking portion inwardly.

5        58. An apparatus according to Claim 57, wherein  
said release cylindrical member has an inner surface  
contactable with an outer surface of said releasing  
projection, said inner surface being tapered.

10      59. An apparatus according to Claim 41 or 49,  
further comprising a driving force applying means for  
applying to a driving force receiving member of said  
toner accommodating container a driving force for  
feeding the toner in said toner accommodating  
container toward said toner discharge opening.

15      60. An apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein  
said locking portion is locked with said portion to be  
locked in a snap fitting manner.

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